

Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council

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THE

# Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1948

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# Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1948 which refers to the first whole year of my appointment.

The estimated resident population of Forehoe and Henstead Rural District will be seen to have increased by some 500 although there were less total births and about the same number of deaths.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS.

After a comparatively mild, dry winter with no severe weather, there was an unusually hot spell during the spring. The summer, however, was generally lacking in sunshine and the autumn was mild and dry. Although there was some rain in the summer months the rainfall during the year as a whole was below the average which increased the anxiety about water supplies from shallow wells.

### GENERAL.

Area (in acres) ... ... ...	69,267
Resident population mid-year 1948	
(as estimated by Registrar General)	22,430
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948)	6,863
Rateable Value (end of 1948)	£74,403
Sum represented by a penny rate	£300 14s. 0d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	Forehoe & Henstead (1948)	England & Wales (1948)	Forehoe & Henstead (1947)
				Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—		
Legitimate	396	192	204	18.3	17.9	21.2
Illegitimate	15	7	8			
Total	411	199	212			

### STILL BIRTHS:

				Rate per 1,000 Population—
Legitimate	11	6	5	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	11	6	5	0.48      0.42      0.63

				Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population—
DEATHS:	240	115	125	10.69      10.8      10.6

### Maternal Mortality:

—      —      —

				Rate per 1,000 Live Births—
Legitimate	17	8	9	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	41.3      34.      30.1

### Infant Deaths:

Analysis of Causes of Infant Deaths—

1st Day	6	4	2			
1—7 Days	5	2	3	Prematurity and Con-		
1—4 Weeks	1	—	1	genital Deformities	11	
1—3 Months	3	1	2			
3—6 Months	—	—	—	Obstetrical	...	2
6—12 Months	2	1	1	Infections	...	4
Totals	17	8	9		Total	17

There were 411 live births registered during the year compared with 465 in 1947, and only 15 of these were illegitimate, less than half the number reported last year. This gives a Birth Rate of 18.3 which is 3 per 1,000 lower than last year but is still above the National Rate of 17.9. There were 11 Still Births compared with 14 last year.

The registered deaths amounted to 230, which is 3 less than 1947, giving a Death Rate of 10.7, slightly above the rate last year (10.6) and slightly below

240

that for England and Wales (10.8). Infant deaths were 17 in number, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 41.3 which is much higher than last year (30.1) and much above the National Rate (34). There were no maternal deaths.

To sum up these statistics, I may say that fewer babies have been born and that their survival rate has not been so good as last year. At first sight this would suggest some deterioration in the standard of infant care, but on dissecting the figures further, I find that there were 9 premature births, which included 3 sets of twins, the result therefore, of 6 pregnancies. Of these 9 premature infants, 6 died in their 1st week of life, which suggests conditions of considerable immaturity. The cause of prematurity is unknown, and considering the circumstances, these 6 may well be considered as inevitable deaths.

Added to these, there were 5 infant deaths due to congenital defects, again a factor over which we have no control. Two further infants died from injury at birth which may or may not have been avoidable. Only 4 infants under 1 year died of preventable infection, 3 of broncho-pneumonia and 1 from gastro-enteritis, compared with 9 such cases in 1947.

This means that only 4 infant deaths could certainly have been avoided, which is exceptionally good, considering the difficult housing conditions which still exist. There is no doubt that the availability of a good safe dried milk for all infants who cannot be breast-fed, has saved many attacks of dangerous intestinal infection, added to the excellent protective effect of cod liver oil and orange juice.

The gradual education of all mothers in the virtue of fresh air has been another potent factor in the prevention of fatal cases of pneumonia.

Though the number of deaths at all ages is only 3 less than last year, the sex distribution is rather different. There were 10 more female than male deaths in 1948, compared with 11 more male than female in 1947. In other words, this year the female deaths were increased by 14 and the male deaths decreased by 7.

*increase*

The only figure which shows considerable ~~decrease~~ is that for intracranial diseases, which caused 14 more female deaths than last year. All but 2 of these occurred over the age of 65 and half of them over the age of 70. There appears to be no particular reason for this finding. Tuberculosis caused 7 deaths, which is one less than last year. There were 3 suicides and only 4 deaths from accidents. There were no deaths from accidents in the home.

The causes of death given in the following Table are supplied by the Registrar General.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	1
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	1	6	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1	
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—	
Influenza	—	—	—	
Measles	—	—	—	
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	
Cancer	16	26	42	
Diabetes	2	4	6	
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	17	20	37	
Heart Diseases	38	42	80	
Other diseases of Circulatory System	5	6	11	
Bronchitis	4	1	5	
Pneumonia	4	3	7	
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	
Ulcer of Stomach or Doudenum	—	—	—	
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—	
Appendicitis	2	—	2	
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1	
Nephritis	4	2	6	
Puerperal & Post-abort. Sepsis	—	—	—	
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	
Premature Birth	1	4	5	
Con. Mal. Birth inj. Infant Dis.	4	1	5	
Suicide	3	—	3	
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2	
Other Violent Causes	2	—	2	
All other Causes	7	11	18	
Totals	115	125	240	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the following Table:—

Disease	Ages								Total
	0-1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	7	9	3	1	—	—	21
Whooping Cough	7	14	14	35	4	—	—	—	74
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Infective									
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ac. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	30	39	87	23	7	2	2	195
Pneumonia	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	5	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Para Typhoid B	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	12	45	63	134	32	10	6	11	323

### General.

There was much greater incidence of infectious disease, a total of ~~340~~<sup>323</sup> cases being notified during the year. The main causes of this increase were epidemics of Measles (195 cases) and Whooping Cough (74 cases). Scarlet Fever was also 3 times as prevalent.

### Scarlet Fever.

<sup>21</sup>

There were ~~20~~ cases of Scarlet Fever notified giving an attack rate of 0.89, which is much higher than last year but about half the rate for England and Wales. There was nothing in the nature of an epidemic. Cases occurred in ones and twos all through the year, throughout the District, the largest numbers occurring in Wreningham and New Costessey. The disease was mild and no complications were reported.

### Measles and Whooping Cough.

There was quite a heavy incidence of measles, (195 cases) giving an attack rate of 8.69, compared with 9.34 for the whole Country. The majority of cases occurred in the winter months, apart from a small epidemic in October. The main parishes affected

were Costessey, Morley and Barnham Broom, but the disease was widespread over the District. There were no deaths and few complications were reported.

Whooping Cough was also much more prevalent and 74 cases were notified giving an attack rate of 3.30 compared with 3.43 for England and Wales. The main peaks of incidence were March and August and the parishes most affected were Saxlingham and Deopham, with small groups of cases scattered over the rest of the District. There was one death.

### **Diphtheria.**

Only one case of diphtheria was notified during the year and this was discovered by the taking of a routine swab from a 5 year old contact of a case occurring in a school outside the District. This case could more reasonably be described as a symptomless carrier as she never developed any clinical signs of the disease. She was treated at the Isolation Hospital and had to have a tonsil operation to clear up her carrier state. She had been immunised in infancy but had not had a boosting dose since that time.

It is gratifying to note what an excellent effect the Council's Immunisation Scheme has had upon the incidence of this very dangerous disease.

### **Infective Hepatitis or Epidemic Jaundice.**

Only 3 cases of Hepatitis have been notified compared with 9 cases in 1947. All were adult males and appeared to have no connection with one another. They all made complete recoveries.

### **Enteric Group of Diseases.**

One case of Dysentry was notified in a laboratory worker and one case of Paratyphoid B in a patient who had been a frequent visitor to a Hospital where the disease was prevalent. No further cases were reported amongst contacts, in either of these cases.

No case of Typhoid was notified during the year.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

There was one case of Poliomyelitis notified in September. It was a girl of 13 at Whitlingham who had some transitory paralysis which completely cleared

up after hospital treatment. She had been a daily bather in the river at a point close to the sewage outfall and it is possible that she acquired the infection in this way.

The two cases left with residual paralysis after the 1947 epidemic continued to improve slowly and at the end of the year were still under treatment.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives the ages and sex incidence during the year.

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
5—15	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Total	8	2	2	5	5	1	—	1

There were 17 new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, 10 of which were of the pulmonary type, compared with 20 new cases in 1947. There were 7 deaths, one less than last year, 6 of these being pulmonary cases. There was one death from Meningitis, a child of two years who had lived in very overcrowded conditions until just before the onset of the fatal illness.

Following the trend in the rest of the country most of the new cases and deaths have been in males over 30. This has been a marked finding in recent years and suggests that the older men are showing the result of the extra strain of World War II.

## **FOOD POISONING.**

Only one attack of food poisoning was reported during the year, affecting a household of three elderly women. The actual cause of the outbreak was never determined bacteriologically but contaminated cooked meat was strongly suspected. The onset was sudden and the symptoms acute but the illness was of short duration and recovery was rapid and complete.

## **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.**

The District Council's responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation ceased on the 5th July, 1948, after which it became a duty of the County Council.

Up to that date, the campaign begun in 1947 was continued. The work carried out during the 6 months to 30th June, 1948, was as follows:—

Children who received a complete course of Immunisation		Total	Boosting Doses all Ages	Grand Total Treated
Under 5	5-14			
103	112	215	182	397

The fact that only one carrier and no case was notified during the year, shows how well protected the children of the District have been against this very dangerous infection.

## **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.**

To carry out its new duties under the National Health Service Act, the Norfolk County Council has decentralised many of its public health functions to 9 Areas. The Forehoe and Henstead Rural District, together with St. Faiths & Aylsham, make up Area No. 4, with a temporary Area Office at 197 Wroxham Road, Sprowston. This Area is under the supervision of the Area Medical Officer who is also the Medical Officer of Health to both Districts.

This arrangement began on 5th July, 1948, and even after 6 months, it is obvious that it has great possibilities for effective co-ordination of all the Health Services in the Area. The combined appointment of the same Medical Officer to supervise both the County Council and the District Council health functions leads to good integration at every level. It is already apparent that the Sanitary Staff and the Welfare Officers have often to deal with different aspects of the same human

situation and working amicably together are obviously more successful than either of them working alone. In this District such co-ordination has been most effective.

The representation of the District Council upon the Area Health Sub-Committee should ensure that local needs are brought directly to the notice of the main Health Committee, and any deficiency in the County Council provisions for the District should thus be remedied.

## **HOUSING.**

At the end of 1948 there were 653 applications on the Waiting List for houses, and as there were 657 in December, 1947, it is obvious that house building and hut adaptation is hardly keeping up with the day-to-day demand, let alone reducing the number of those in need. Approximately 85 new applications were received. The Council housed 131 applicants in 1948, 57 of them in new permanent houses, 38 in converted hutments and 36 in older Council Houses vacated by other tenants. The names of those temporarily accepting hutment accommodation still remained on the official Waiting List for permanent houses.

A dissection of the Waiting List shows that 181 applicants could be classed as Agricultural Workers, as against 152 last year, and that 50% of all applications come from newly-weds and those waiting to marry. Again nearly half the total refer to families who have no separate homes, but are living in lodgings or with relations. Although rather more than half the applicants already have separate homes, these include the occupants of condemned houses, of which there are still far too many and of other equally insanitary property which would be condemned as Grade V in a routine Housing Survey.

It is certainly time that the worst of the old property was finally vacated and demolished and a start made on those houses in which there are families, specially those with young children.

On 31st December, 1948, there were 12 houses and 4 bungalows under construction and the remainder of the 1948 programme consisted of 86 permanent houses and 20 bungalows. In addition, 62 huts are to be converted into 82 units of accommodation at Hethel.

The basis of satisfactory family life is adequate housing, and in spite of intensified local efforts the pace of building is still much too slow. A greater variety of size and type of house does seem to be indicated so that the 3 stages of a normal family may be catered for. The smaller units of accommodation will suit either the newly-wed or the aged couples, and a certain number of these should be provided in each parish.

The larger family is becoming much less common but where they still exist every facility should be available to the housewife and mother who is doing such essential national service.

It is often forgotten that the work attached to the running of a large household, washing, cooking and cleaning for many separate persons, can be as arduous as that in any heavy industry. The worker should have every help that water taps, electricity, drainage and labour-saving devices can give her. Such families should therefore be considered for the better equipped new Council House, even if not very seriously overcrowded in their present accommodation. The mother is the linch-pin of the home and any lessening of her drudgery must necessarily improve the standards and happiness of the whole family.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

Unfortunately, it is impossible to report any improvement in the water supply situation, indeed, in some ways the position has deteriorated, as an increasing number of wells have gone dry. There is therefore less water available to residents in the District than there was in 1947, and until the main piped supply schemes are put into operation, the position is likely to get steadily worse.

As all these schemes appear to be held up by shortage of supplies such as water pipes, pumping equipment, etc., it would seem imperative that some form of priority should be established centrally so that those districts, such as Forehoe and Henstead, who are suffering from a condition of actual drought, could get their mains laid with the minimum of delay.

It is greatly to be hoped that I may have a happier report to make under this heading in 1949.

## SOCIAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

The social health of the district depends upon the proportion of its population who are enabled to live full and satisfying lives. All ages have their special needs from infant welfare at one end of life to the Old Peoples' Club at the other.

There are community needs also, such as a satisfactory meeting place for lectures and social events, a playing field for the younger ones and a safe playground for the toddler and his slightly older relations. Each parish should have its own facilities unless it is so minute that it must combine with one or more of its neighbours for some of them.

In order to assess the position in the District, I have extracted the following data parish by parish:—

No. of Parishes	No. with Village Halls	No. with Playing Fields	No. with Women's Institutes	No. with Youth Organ'n's	No. with Further Educat'n Classes	No. with County Libraries	No. with Old People's Clubs
37	29	6	24	17	10	31	4

In addition 7 villages propose to build halls, and 5 to acquire them.

The size of the parishes varies very much over the District and it is possible to divide them into two groups—11 parishes containing 12,570 or rather more than half the total population.

The following Table shews details of Village Halls, etc., in this first group of 11 parishes:—

No. of Parishes	No. with Village Halls	No. with Playing Fields	No. with Women's Institutes	No. with Youth Organ'n's	No. with Further Educa'n Classes	No. with County Libraries	No. with Old People's Clubs
11	9	5	10	9	6	9	4

In addition, 3 propose to build Village Halls and 3 to acquire playing fields.

The other Group consists of 26 parishes (Population 9,860) just under half total population, and none of them has a population of more than 500, some as few as 140, and the following Table shows details of Village Halls, etc.:—

No. of Parishes	No. with Village Halls	No. with Playing Fields	No. with Women's Institutes	No. with Youth Organ'n's	No. with Further Educa'n Classes	No. with County Libraries	No. with Old People's Clubs
26	19	1	14	8	4	19	—

In addition, 4 have local projects for Village Halls and 2 for playing fields.

Reviewing these findings, it would appear that 80% of both Groups have some kind of meeting place and whereas half the larger parishes have playing fields, only one of the smaller parishes is so equipped.

From the human point of view, most of the adult women in the larger parishes and 50% of those in the smaller parishes, have an Institute reasonably near.

The young people have four times as much chance of a Youth Organisation in the larger parishes, while the old folk are only catered for in 4 of the large and in none of the small villages.

Books are equally accessible to all sizes of village and there are only 6 parishes where there is no branch of the County Library. Further education is available in half the larger parishes but in only 4 of the smaller ones.

One of the interesting features of this survey is the number of parishes, large and small, who are already trying to supply the facilities they lack. Such self-help is a good sign of social health and should be encouraged by the District and County Councils. Each parish knows its own needs best and is much more likely to appreciate and preserve a Hall and Playing Field which they have acquired by their own efforts than possibly grander provision imposed on them from above.

Good social health is true preventive medicine and if the figures were available, it should be possible to show that accidents to the toddlers, delinquency in the young, neurosis in the middle aged and early mental

deterioration in the old, could all be reduced by the provision of adequate facilities for all to live full lives in a truly integrated community.

The rural way of life has its own pattern and if allowed to do so will surely evolve a modern version of the old country village which will be more satisfying and attractive than the urban ideas which tend to be increasingly imported and are really so alien to the true countryman.

Houses, water supply and other amenities will have little attraction to the young people unless the place in which they live offers them an interesting life.

The Parish Councils appear to have a great opportunity to improve the social health of their villages and every help and encouragement should be given to them in their task. Only such local efforts, if successful, can hope to arrest the drain of the younger elements from the country to the town.

## **GENERAL SURVEY.**

To sum up this report, I may say that the health of the district has been quite satisfactory during the year. The low birth rate follows the national trend and the slight rise in the death rate probably arises out of the fact of an ageing population. The higher infant mortality rate was largely fortuitous and the lower incidence of mortality from tuberculosis gives cause for sober satisfaction.

Although infectious disease has been much more prevalent than last year, the fact that there was only one death from this cause would suggest that the general resistance of the child population is high.

### **Conclusion.**

In conclusion, I should like to record my appreciation of the helpful encouragement I have constantly received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the never failing enthusiasm of the Clerk and the effective co-operation of the staff without which many of the findings in this report could not have been recorded.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

# Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.**

### Technical.

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE. M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector, Shops Inspector, Inspector under Petroleum Acts.

WILLIAM A. JONES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.

BERTIE G. B. SOUTH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

GRAHAM J. L. HORNE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

### Clerical.

MISS R. A. M. STONE.

## **BUILDING TOWN PLANNING AND ESTATES DEPARTMENT STAFF.**

### Technical.

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE.

Building Surveyor and Estates Supervisor.

HERBERT W. EASTOE.

Building Inspector.

Clerical.

JOHN ERASMUS.

(Building Byelaws and Town Planning)

GEORGE ATTOE (Estates)

MRS. D. M. M. HIGH.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supply.**

A piped main water supply serves the parishes of Costessey, Caistor St. Edmunds, Cringleford, Framingham Earl, Trowse Newton, Poringland, Stoke Holy Cross, Hackford, Hingham and Wicklewood. The last three named parishes are supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Wymondham Urban District Council and obtained from that Authority's Waterworks at High Oak, Wicklewood. The other parishes derive their supply from the Norwich Corporation Waterworks, 30 converted hutments at Hethel Aerodrome and 43 at Ketteringham Camp are supplied with piped water from the Waterworks at these respective sites, taken over from the Air Ministry and now operated and managed by the Council.

In the remainder of the District the supply of water for domestic purposes is obtained from private wells which vary in depth, but are for the most part shallow. The diminution during the year of the water supply available from these wells has given cause for concern, as it is clear that the level of the underground water which supplies them is slowly, but progressively falling. Wells have gone dry in various parts of the district to such an extent that the emergency drinking water supply service mentioned in my 1947 report has had to be kept in operation. The calls on this service have gradually increased, and at the end of the year water was being carted to a total of 93 houses in the parishes of Hethersett, Braconash, Wrenisham and East Carleton.

There seems to be no hope that the water supply for shallow wells will be replenished. The fall in the water table, although varying in degree from year to

year, has been substantially maintained for more than 10 years, and has recently shown marked quickening of the downward trend. This is due to a combination of causes, but the succession of years of low rainfall, and the increase in the number of deep wells from which large quantities of water are extracted are probably the main factors. It is likely that the position is worsened by modern improvement of land drainage undertaken to improve fertility. The effect of this is to bring about a readier run-off of surface water to the watercourses and rivers and thus a reduction in the quantity trapped by the subsoil and available to replenish surface wells. In addition I am inclined to agree that de-forestation also plays a part in the general lower rainfall.

There seems to be no remedy to the position other than to press forward with the schemes of main water supply already on paper for the whole District, as, even if the existing supplies were sufficient, their general quality, open as they are to easy pollution is not up to a desirable standard.

The water obtained from the Norwich Corporation and the Wymondham Urban District Council is of good quality and not liable to exert any plumbo-solvent action.

The Scheme for supplying mains water to Hethersett has this year been approved by the Ministry of Health and will be put into effect at the same time as a complementary link main scheme in the Wymondham U.D.C. Area when the necessary pipes and fittings are obtained.

49 samples of water were taken for analysis and 9 were reported as unfit for drinking and 40 fit for drinking.

2 wells were cleaned out and made fit and the use of 2 others was discontinued, alternative arrangements being made for water supplies. In the remaining 5 cases the samples were taken from wells at Hethersett for use as evidence of the poor state of shallow well water there, at the Ministry of Health Public Inquiry.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and population which have a main water supply is as follows:—

Parish	Estimated Population.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses Supplied from Mains.	Estimated Pop. Supplied.
Costessey	... 4592	1352	1199	3597
Cringleford	... 1024	315	303	1012
Caistor St. Edmunds	... 156	50	2	8
Hackford	... 195	72	4	16
Hingham	... 1390	485	342	1368
Framingham Earl	... 200	72	23	92
Poringland	... 960	313	140	560
Stoke Holy Cross	... 558	155	32	128
Trowse	... 550	169	170	510
Wicklewood	... 770	215	59	236

These figures shew that approximately 33 1/3% of the total population of the district has a main water supply. It must be remembered, however, that 80% of these are in 5 of the more populous parishes and the percentage for the rural parts of the district is very low.

### Sewerage.

The restriction on capital works enforced by the national economic position has ruled out the possibility of carrying out any of the new sewerage schemes at present on paper. The obsolete sewerage system at Hingham with its two crude outfalls is long overdue for replacement. Blockages occurred in the sewer, due to subsidences and inefficient flow, and in order to remove the sewage as readily as possible from the vicinity of the town, both the northern and southern outfall ditches were cleaned out.

At Trowse Newton, the only other parish in the district having sewers, conversion of earth closets to W.C.'s is being maintained by the house owners as rapidly as the scarcity of materials and labour will allow.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Weekly collections of refuse are made from Hingham, Costessey, Cringleford and Trowse, together with parts of Bixley and Arminghall, and fortnightly collections from Hethersett, Poringland and parts of Stoke Holy Cross and Framingham Earl. In addition, special

weekly collections are made from the Wymondham Training College, Keswick Training College, Hethel Camp and Ketteringham Camp.

The refuse is being tipped at the Council's Ketteringham Pit, at the rate of approximately 30 tons per week. Salvaged materials are collected by the refuse loaders and as much as is possible is sorted from the refuse at the Tip. In those parishes with no refuse collection service, salvage is collected by the Council's van from storage points to which it is brought by voluntary workers:

I had hoped that it would be possible to extend the refuse collection service to cover almost the whole of the district. This, however, is dependent upon the delivery of a new vehicle which the Council placed on order early last year. Unfortunately, owing to the priority which manufacturers have to give to export orders, the new vehicle is still awaited.

### **Salvage.**

The following Salvage was collected and disposed of during the year:—

			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	34	19	—
Rags	...	...	1	5	—
Bones	...	...	—	19	2
Metal	...	...	7	3	1
Bottles and Jars	...	...	4	19	2
<hr/>					
			49	6	1

The total revenue from the above Salvage was £357 4s. 1d.

### **Scavenging.**

The night soil collection service, hitherto confined to Hingham and Trowse, was extended during the year to include Old Costessey and Hethersett. Here again lack of sufficient vehicles restricts the further widening of this service. Two vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and night soil collection, and they are kept fully occupied. Heavy demands continue to be made on them to empty cesspools at the Council's Costessey and Poringland Housing Sites.

## **INFECTIONS DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS.**

During the year 20 cases of infectious disease were investigated. Fumigation of rooms was carried out on 18 occasions, and where infectious patients were being nursed at home, disinfectants were supplied to the householders and advice given on precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection.

5 premises were disinfested against insect pests.

3 cases of Food Poisoning were investigated and the probable source traced to a meat product prepared and purchased outside the district. The necessary remedial action was taken by the local Authority of that Area.

## **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.**

The arrangements made with the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee for the use of their pest control service for rodent destruction have been continued satisfactorily. 47 individual complaints of infestation were investigated and dealt with during the year. Investigations at Costessey, Poringland, Trowse and Cringleford shewed minor though widespread infestation, and in these parishes block control treatment was carried out.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Food Divisional Rodent Inspector, the sewers at Trowse Newton were test baited. No takes were recorded, indicating that the sewers are free from infestation.

## **MILK, COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

The number of Cowsheds registered under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, is 295.

39 Accredited Producer's Licences and 36 Tuber-culin Tested Licences were granted by the Norfolk County Council to producers in the District during the year.

The following Milk Licences were issued by the Council during the year.

- |   |                                          |
|---|------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Pasteurizer's Licence (Holder Process)   |
| 1 | Pasteurizer's Licence (H.T.S.T. Process) |
| 2 | Tuberculin Tested Bottling Licences      |
| 2 | do. do. Dealers Licences                 |
| 1 | do. do. Supplementary<br>Dealers Licence |

The number of samples taken by the Norfolk County Council for Methylene Blue Test, were as follows:—

	No. Taken.	No. Passed.	No. Failed.
Accredited ... ...	190	158	32
Tuberculin Tested ...	136	120	16

Samples of Heat Treated and Pasteurised Milk are obtained regularly from the Milk Marketing Board Plant at Harford Bridges, for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase reduction tests. 23 such samples were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

### **ICE CREAM.**

The two registered Ice Cream Factories in the District have been regularly inspected and samples of this product taken for laboratory examination. The premises and methods of production are satisfactory. The vehicles of itinerant ice cream vendors are inspected as occasion allows to ensure that the relative provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are being observed.

I am pleased to report that the operation of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, and the publicity which has of late been focussed on this product, has had the effect of producing a cleanliness consciousness in many ice cream traders, although there are still those careless itinerant sellers who have to be kept under close observation.

### **MEAT INSPECTION.**

The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Swardston has been in continuous use throughout the year. An Inspector has been in daily attendance there, and

all the animals killed were examined as to their fitness for human consumption. The working of the slaughterhouse, the storage and the handling of the butchers' meat, and the loading of the meat for distribution, has been under effective sanitary control at all times, and the relative provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, have been satisfactorily observed.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year.

Bulls.	Cows.	Bullocks.	Heifers	Calves.	Sheep.	Pork Pigs	Sows and Boars.
89	835	1227	608	2351	3577	406	270

A Total of 9363 animals.

Upon inspection the following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and was converted into inedible products, under the Ministry's Scheme for dealing with unsound meat:—

#### BEEF.

		Tons.	WEIGHT Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
23	Cows (Tuberculosis)	... 6	1	1	21
2	Cows (Fevered)	... .	11	2	4
1	Cow (Septicaemia)	... .	5	0	0
5	Heifers (Tuberculosis)	... 1	8	1	27
1	Heifer (Septic Peritonitis)	... .	4	3	8
1	Heifer (Septicaemia)	... .	4	3	9
1	Heifer (Moribund)	... .	3	3	11
7	Bullocks (Tuberculosis)	... 1	17	1	17
2	Bullocks (Moribund)	... .	7	3	5
2	Bullocks (Septic Peritonitis)	... .	9	3	26
1	Bullock (Pyaemia)	... .	6	3	20
1	Bull (Tuberculosis)	... .	7	3	14

#### MUTTON.

1	Sheep (Moribund)	... .	1	1	0
2	Sheep (Fevered)	... .	1	1	26
1	Sheep (Pathological Emaciation)	... .		1	22

#### VEAL.

1	Calf (Fevered)	... .	2	20
5	Calves (Umbilical Pyaemia)	... 2	2	11
1	Calf (Septic Peritonitis)	... .	2	20

VEAL—*continued.*

	Tons.	Cwts.	WEIGHT Qrs.	Lbs.
5 Calves (Moribund) ...	2	1	5	
1 Calf (Septic Injury) ...		1	17	
2 Calves (Tuberculosis) ...	1	0	9	
1 Calf (Bruising, extensive and severe) ...		2	9	

## PORK.

4 Pigs (Swine Erysipelas) ...	3	1	4	
1 Pig (Fevered) ...		3	26	
5 Pigs (Tuberculosis) ...	6	0	1	
1 Pig (Septicaemia) ...	1	0	18	
1 Pig (Multiple Injuries) ...	1	0	4	
1 Pig (Septic Pericarditis) ...	1	0	20	
2 Pigs (Moribund) ...	2	3	0	
2 Pigs (Septic Peritonitis) ...	3	1	5	
1 Pig (Pyaemia) ...		3	2	
3 Pigs (Septic Pleurisy) ...	3	1	1	
1 Pig (Multiple Abcesses) ...		3	26	
1 Boar (Pyaemia) ...	3	2	8	
1 Boar (Uraemia) ...	5	0	24	
4 Sows (Tuberculosis) ...	10	2	15	
1 Sow (Septic Pleurisy & Peritonitis) ...	2	1	19	
1 Sow (Septic Pericarditis) ...	3	0	9	
1 Sow (Fevered) ...	2	2	20	
Parts of Carcasses & organs condemned for various diseases ...	18	7	3	17
<b>Total weight condemned ...</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>

Percentage of animals condemned for Tuberculosis:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows and Boars
1.12%	2.75%	0.57%	0.82%	0.085%	—	1.23%	1.48%

Percentage of animals condemned for all diseases:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows and Boars
1.12%	3.10%	0.98%	1.31%	0.68%	0.11%	5.42%	3.33%

## **Knackers Yard.**

There is one Knackers Yard in the District, that of Norfolk Animal Products Ltd., at Shotesham, and inspection of the premises is carried out at regular intervals. During the year the volume of trade carried on has increased and serious difficulties arose with regard to the disposal of drainage from the premises. As a result of informal action, the owners are taking steps to construct a proper drainage system together with modern treatment works.

## **HOUSING.**

The erection of new dwellings and the repair of old ones still fails sadly to keep pace with the housing needs of the district, and present day conditions are made such that no proper slum clearance schemes can be embarked upon. Action under the Housing Act, 1936, was undertaken during the year to bring about the demolition of seven dwellinghouses which were the subject of Demolition or Clearance Orders made before the War.

There are, however, more than 100 dwellings under Demolition or Clearance Orders, still occupied in the District, many of which are totally unsuitable for human habitation. I wish again to urge that priority for rehousing be given to families occupying these houses so that they can be demolished and cleared away.

In the past year 217 inspections were carried out in connection with housing repairs and the following Notices were served:—

Preliminary	...	...	...	...	11
Statutory	...	...	...	...	7

## **NEW BUILDINGS.**

The following new dwellings were approved under Building Bye-laws and/or Town Planning:—

By the local Authority:

Parish		Houses	Bungalows
Caistor St. Edmunds	...	6	—
Colton	...	6	—
Deopham	...	—	2
East Carleton	...	2	—
Flordon	...	4	—

By the Local Authority :—*continued.*

Parish	Houses	Bungalows
Great Melton	4	—
Hethersett	8	4
Hingham	10	—
Keswick	6	—
Marlingford	4	—
Poringland	14	—
Rockland St. Mary	—	8
Saxlingham Nethergate	4	—
Shotesham St. Mary	10	2
Stoke Holy Cross	8	4
Surlingham	—	4
Swainsthorpe	4	—
Swardeston	4	—
Wrappingham	4	—

## By Private Enterprise:

Parish	Houses	Bungalows
Barford	—	2
Bixley	—	2
Bramerton	—	2
Costessey	1	7
Cringleford	3	3
Hingham	1	—
Lt. Melton	1	—
Morley St. Botolph	1	—
Poringland	—	1
Rockland St. Mary	—	2
Runhall	1	1
Stoke Holy Cross	3	2
Swardeston	—	1

The following conversions and adaptations were approved:—

## By the Local Authority:

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Hutments
Hethel	—	—	62

## By Private Enterprise:

Costessey	2	2	—
Hethersett	—	1	—
Keswick	3	—	—
Morley St. Botolph	—	1	—
Mulbarton	—	1	—
Poringland	—	1	—
Rockland St. Mary	1	—	—
Saxlingham	2 (flats)	—	—

During the year the following new dwellings were completed:

**By the Local Authority:**

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Hutments
Barnham Broom	10	—	—
Hethel	—	—	35
Hethersett	16	—	—
Hingham	6	—	—
Kimberley	2	—	—
Newton Flotman	10	—	—
Surlingham	10	—	—
Stoke Holy Cross	—	—	3
Wicklewood	3	—	—

**By Private Enterprise:**

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Adaption
Barford	—	—	1
Costessey	2	6	1
Cringleford	1	—	—
Deopham	—	—	1
Easton	—	1	—
Hethersett	1	—	—
Kirby Bedon	2	—	—
Mulbarton	—	—	1
Newton Flotman	—	2	—
Rockland St. Mary	—	—	1
Surlingham	1	—	—
Swardeston	1	—	—
Wicklewood	1	—	—

## **CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.**

The Building Licensing Regulations have remained in operation throughout the year. The free limit in respect of repairs to dwellinghouses was raised from £10 to £100 on 1st July, 1948, and in November the free limit, i.e., the amount which can be spent on building work in one year was raised from £100 to £1000 in respect of farms and business buildings.

The number of licences which may be issued for the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise is still rigidly controlled by the Ministry of Health, and during the year only 17 such licences were granted. This is far below the estimated need, as at the end of the year 37 applications for new dwellings were still outstanding.

The administration of the licensing Regulations takes up a good deal of the time of my department. During the year a total of 527 applications were dealt with, licences were issued as follows:—

	Houses	Bungalows	Total
NEW BUILDINGS	8	9	17
CONVERSIONS	3	8	11
REPAIRS	527	470	£45,279
	Applications	Licences Granted	Value

## BUILDING BYE-LAWS AND TOWN PLANNING.

On 1st July, 1948, the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, came into operation. This is a comprehensive measure which consolidates and reinforces existing Town Planning legislation, and transfers planning powers from District Councils to County Councils. In Norfolk, as in other parts of the Country, the County Council have delegated to District Councils certain of their planning functions. These are mainly concerned with the control of interim development.

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, building plans have already to be deposited with Sanitary Authorities for approval under Building Bye-laws, and it is convenient under the new arrangement, for applications to be made at the same time and to the same office for Planning approval. Under the terms of delegation the Council receives and deals with these applications with the technical advice of the County Planning Officer. This has involved a good deal of work as it necessitates maintaining the statutory record, dealing with the public as applicants for Planning approval, and advising them on the new procedure. This work, coupled with the practical administration of the Council's Building Bye-laws has proved a heavy burden on the existing staff. The Council's Building Inspector can only devote part of his time to this section, as his duties include acting under the Council's Architect in the capacity of Clerk of Works for the erection of new council houses, and the supervision, under the direction of the Building Surveyor, of repairs to existing houses carried out both by Direct Labour and Contract.

260 Plans were deposited for approval under Building Bye-laws during the year.

## ESTATES.

In June the Council put into operation a Direct Labour Scheme for the maintenance of council houses. The backlog of repairs and maintenance due to enforced neglect during the war years has been tackled, and repairs and painting have been carried out at the following sites by the end of the year:—

Parish	Houses	Bungalows
<b>HETHERSETT</b>		
Ketts Close	12	—
Melton Road	14	—
Lynch Green	8	—
<b>MULBARTON</b>		
The Rosary	28	8
<b>HINGHAM</b>		
Norwich Road	16	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The scheme is an experimental one, the labour employed being only a token of that needed to operate a comprehensive system of repairs and maintenance, and it has not been in operation sufficiently long for a useful comparison to be drawn between Direct Labour and Contract Work.

Early in the year a Stationary Machinery Attendant was engaged for the purpose of maintaining the Estates pumps, plumbing, water and sewerage installations. This arrangement has proved highly satisfactory especially in cases of breakdown, but the steady increase in the number of houses with modern plumbing systems and apparatus which tends easily to get out of order, is providing him with more work than one man can properly manage.

With regard to improvements, circumstances have precluded embarkation on any major schemes. 4 houses at Great Melton were provided with new kitchens and drainage systems and a total of 20 houses were wired for the supply of electricity.

## Conclusion.

In conclusion, the year has been one of expanding activities in Public Health and Building work. I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration always afforded to me, and express my appreciation of the loyal co-operation and assistance of the Staff of the Public Health and Building Departments.

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